

# SURPRISE

P R O G R E S S

Official publication of the City of Surprise.

FEBRUARY 2006

VOLUME 6 NO. 1

**Catch it!**  
Spring Training  
in Surprise

**Hop on!**  
The City's first  
commuter bus



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## **CITY COUNCIL**

6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month  
Feb. 9, 23  
March 9, 23  
Surprise City Hall, 12425 W. Bell Road  
Info: 623.583.1098

## **PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

6 p.m. on the first and third  
Tuesdays of the month  
Feb. 7, 21  
March 7, 21  
Surprise City Hall, 12425 W. Bell Road  
Info: 623.875.4332

**City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings** are broadcast live on Surprise11, available to Cox Cable subscribers in Surprise, Sun City and Sun City West. Council meetings are rebroadcast several times during the week following the meeting. Broadcast times are:

8 a.m. Friday  
noon Saturday  
7 p.m. Sunday  
7 p.m. Monday  
2 a.m. Wednesday



## **ARTS & CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**

623.583.5899

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

623.875.4273

## **PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

623.266.4507

## **REVITALIZATION ADVISORY BOARD**

623.815.5495

## **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

623.875.4246

## **DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

623.875.4350

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Danny Arismendez, Vice Mayor, District 4  
Cliff Elkins, District 1  
Martha Bails, District 2  
Gary “Doc” Sullivan, District 3  
Joe Johnson, District 5  
Gwyn Foro, District 6

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## **WINNER**

3CMA Silver Circle Award, 2005  
3CMA Silver Circle Award, 2004  
3CMA Silver Circle Award, 2003  
3CMA Award of Excellence, 2002

Surprise Progress is published by the City of Surprise Communications Department and distributed to all City residents via mail. We hope you like our format and content. We'd like to hear from you about Surprise Progress. Please call or e-mail us.

Cover photo by John Beckett

Surprise Sundancer Brenda DeShazo is ready to welcome fans to Spring Training 2006 at Surprise Stadium.

# Council Agenda Packets Now On-Line

Citizens now have quick access to the Surprise City Council agenda packets, including the supplemental materials Councilmembers receive.

The packet, usually containing several hundred pages of information, is available in PDF format on the City's website, [surpriseaz.com](http://surpriseaz.com). It may be accessed several ways: Through "Agendas" on the left-hand menu on the homepage; through City Departments, City Clerk's Office, or through the Archive Center. Webmaster Hank Franco said the document will take a few minutes to download and will require installation of Acrobat Reader.

"We're very excited about this," said City Clerk Sherry Aguilar. "Now our residents have all the information available without having to leave home, and can be better prepared if they want to comment at City Council meetings." She expects that the number of public records requests will drop since the information will remain available in the website archive.

The Council packet will usually be online by the Tuesday prior to each meeting. Residents registered to receive an e-mail notification when the agenda is posted, will be able to click on a link that will take them directly to the PDF packet. To sign-up for the e-mail notification, click on Notify Me on the left-hand side of the [surpriseaz.com](http://surpriseaz.com) homepage.

For more information on the agenda, call the City Clerk's office at 623.583.1098. For website-related questions, call Franco at 623.875.4238.

"Now our residents  
have all the information  
available without having  
to leave home."

Sherry Aguilar, City Clerk

The Surprise City Council

has moved back into

remodeled council

chambers at City Hall,

12425 W. Bell Road.

Meetings begin at

6 p.m. and are held on

the second and fourth

Thursdays of each month.



## AT THE LIBRARY

### Northwest Regional Library

16089 N. Bullard Ave., 623.544.6371

### Hollyhock Branch Library

15844 N. Hollyhock St., 623.583.0626

A variety of **FREE** computer, craft and special interest classes, along with children's programs, book discussions and special events are available every month at Surprise's two libraries. For a complete listing, visit the libraries or <http://mcld.maricopa.gov>

**Adults: Beginning Spanish**, 1 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 2 – 23, *Hollyhock*

Learn basic vocabulary and practical conversation. Space limited to eight.

### Memoir Writing Group

1:30 p.m. Tuesdays Feb. 7 – 28, *Northwest Regional*

Learn to write your life stories through guided exercises. Registration needed.

### New! Mystery Lovers Book

**Discussion Group**, 6 p.m. Feb. 23 *Northwest Regional*

This month it's *The Chimney Sweeper's Boy* by Barbara Vine.

**Teens: Author Visit** – David Clement-Davies, 7 p.m. Feb. 9, *Northwest Regional*

Meet the author of fantasy novels, *Fire Bringer* and *The Telling Pool*.

**Children: Drama Club**, 4:15 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 6 – 27, *Northwest Regional*

Children in grades 2-5 will learn to use Reader's Theater scripts, build props and more. Must attend all three classes and performance on Feb. 28 at the Library. Registration begins Jan. 27.

**All ages: Storyteller Tim Tingle**, 7 p.m. Feb. 2, *Northwest Regional*

The Choctaw Nation comes to life through Tingle's lively historical, personal and traditional stories, complimented by his music.

**The Muses:** An Afternoon of Irish Music, 10:30 a.m. Feb. 24, *Hollyhock* 3 p.m. Feb. 24, *Northwest Regional*

This two-person Celtic band performs traditional, ancient and modern songs, as well as original pieces.



# HOP ON THE BUS

## ROUTE EASES DOWNTOWN COMMUTE

The city of Surprise and Valley Metro kicked-off the inaugural trip of commuter Express Route 571 bus service on Monday, Jan. 23. Surprise residents now have *one more weekday travel option to consider in their efforts to save on fuel costs and to leave the driving to someone else.*

Extending the fixed-route bus service to Surprise is part of the Regional Transportation Plan that will provide more bus service, new buses, and bus facilities over the next 20 years. The service is currently being funded by the city of Surprise with Local Transportation Assistance Funds (LTAF), a funding source generated by the state lottery to be used only for local transportation projects.

"The new Route 571 is only a modest beginning to meet the overall transit needs of the growing city of Surprise," said Valley Metro Board of Directors member and Surprise Council Member Cliff Elkins. "This further marks that solutions to transportation problems require partnerships such as this one between the city of Surprise and Valley Metro."

Route 571 weekday service will operate as one daily southbound morning trip departing at 6:25 a.m. from the Surprise Aquatic Center park-and-ride lot, and arriving in downtown Phoenix at 7:42 a.m. The trip will make one stop at Greenway and Dysart in El Mirage at 6:30 a.m.

The northbound afternoon trip from downtown Phoenix will depart at 5:05 p.m. from 18th Avenue and Jefferson Street arriving at the El Mirage stop at 6:21 p.m. and the final destination in Surprise at 6:26 p.m. Riders will also have the option of taking the Grand Avenue Limited route to Surprise, which departs Central Station (Phoenix) at 5:35 p.m. and arrives in Surprise at 7:10 p.m.

**C**ommuters interested in travel options may also want to consider starting or joining a vanpool. Currently, there are 20 vanpools operating in Surprise. By logging on to [www.SharetheRide.com](http://www.SharetheRide.com), residents can register for carpool or vanpool partners who are traveling to the same location at the same time.

"Our residents will find relief in their daily commutes by joining a vanpool. It is also a great time to get to know your neighbors and develop friendships outside of your normal network of friends while saving money and stress," said Surprise Mayor Joan H. Shafer.

With 273 vanpools traveling on Valley roadways each weekday, more than 2,000 cars stay parked during peak commuting hours. Riders in a vanpool pay a monthly fee that covers the cost of insurance and maintenance. The driver of a vanpool typically rides for free and is allowed up to 300 miles for personal use per month. Fuel costs are not included in the monthly fee and are split among the vanpool passengers.

For more information about Valley Metro and vanpools, visit [www.ValleyMetro.org](http://www.ValleyMetro.org) or call **602.262.RIDE (7433)**.







# WHAT'S UP WITH HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORIES AND NO BURN DAYS?

During the winter months residents are likely to see an increase in high pollution advisories [HPA] and no burn days. When these occur, it is because the quality of the air is degraded to the point it may negatively affect people with health problems. As a result, residents must refrain from wood or manufactured log burning in fireplaces and/or woodstoves during the advisory period.

The Maricopa County Air Quality Department has received many questions regarding the wood burning restrictions. Here are a few common points:

- Manufactured logs are included in the wood burning restriction.
- High pollution advisories are issued one day in advance. It is a forecast of expected pollution levels.
- Children, senior citizens, and those with respiratory illnesses or compromised immune systems are advised to limit their outdoor activities during a high pollution advisory.
- The Maricopa County Air Quality Department is responsible for enforcing the residential wood burning restriction ordinance.
- Fines for burning during a "No Burn Day" restriction can cost residents up to \$100. Other illegal open burning is subject to higher fines, ranging up to several thousand dollars per day.
- If you see someone burning during a restricted time, call **602.506.6010** or visit **[www.maricopa.gov/aq](http://www.maricopa.gov/aq)**

Residents can help reduce air pollution by following these prevention tips:

- Do not use any woodstove or fireplace burning device during a PM-10 high pollution advisory.
- Do not stir up particulate matter into the air by using leaf blowers.
- In the summer, fill up your vehicle's gas tank during cooler evening or early morning hours.
- Drive less - ride the bus or carpool.
- Eliminate all unnecessary driving and combine trips.
- Keep your tires inflated to proper levels and your car tuned.
- Change your oil every 3,000 to 5,000 miles.
- To find a carpool or vanpool partner, call Valley Metro at 602.262.RIDE or register online at [www.sharetheride.com](http://www.sharetheride.com).

Residents can call the Maricopa County Air Quality Department at **602.506.6400** for updated pollution advisories and burning ban days.





# Catch baseball fever in February...

The warm-up to Surprise's Spring Training season is the fourth annual Celebration of Baseball, a collection of **fun, fan-friendly events** including:

**Feb. 10 - 12:** The fourth annual **Coca Cola Classic College Baseball Tournament**, featuring Arizona State University, Oregon State, Gonzaga and the University of Nevada. Tickets are available at the Stadium Ticket Office, 15960 N. Bullard Ave., at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or by calling 480.784.4444. Adults, \$8; Seniors 55 and over and students under 18 with ID are \$5.

**Feb. 25: Fan Fest**, a free event offering fans an up-close look at their hometown teams. The day includes Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers practice sessions, a baseball card show, interactive games and opportunities for player autographs.

**Feb. 26:** Retired National and American League favorites suit up for a fun-filled afternoon of baseball in the less-than-serious **Legends Game** sponsored by the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association.

## ... enjoy Spring Training with an international flair!

Match-ups with the World Cup Asian Qualifier, weekend games featuring the Arizona Diamondbacks, Chicago Cubs and World Series Champion Chicago White Sox, T-shirt and hat giveaways, fireworks and more guarantee that **the fourth annual Spring Training Season at the award-winning Surprise Stadium will be the best** so far.

**The 30-game 2006 season starts March 2 at the Surprise Recreation Campus**, home of the Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers.

Surprise fans will see the benefit of Major League Baseball hosting the World Cup games this year by getting a sneak preview at some of the best players the Asian world has to offer. The qualifying team, featuring players from Korea, Japan and China, will play night games against the Kansas City Royals on March 8 and the Texas Rangers March 9. "It will be a media frenzy," said Mark Coronado, Surprise's Community and Recreation Services director, **"and fans will be able to get up close and personal with players you don't normally see in America;** players that you would only see during the Olympics or Pan American games."

**In addition, the March 8 evening game will honor past and present military** with ticket discounts and a patriotic show involving Luke Air Force Base personnel. "You won't want to miss it," Coronado said.

That, coupled with a **Spring Training schedule that brings some of the Cactus League's brightest teams to Surprise on the weekends**, boosted ticket sales 15 percent by early January with six games on track to be sell-outs. White Sox games, which are typically a low draw, are selling strong this year, along with the Diamondbacks, Cubs and Angels. Coronado expects stands to fill up on March 11, too, when the Cal Ripken Youth Day brings about 3,000 players and parents to the park.

**Ticket prices remain the same as last year**, ranging from \$17 in the upper and lower decks to \$6 for a spot on the grassy berm. There are plenty of options on season ticket packages and all of them include complimentary VIP parking and a "meet and greet" with the teams.

The special perks are up this year with Kansas City Royal and Texas Ranger hat and t-shirt giveaways planned, along with dollar days and a fireworks show.

# Making it *Happen*

Melissa Miller  
Recreation Manager



**Employee since:** June 2000

**Hometown:** Pasco, Washington

**Family:** Husband and 3-year-old son

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in exercise science from Seattle Pacific University.

**Best part of the job:** Coming to work each day and facing a new challenge.

**Favorite part of Spring Training:** The overall energy in the stadium; seeing the culmination of everyone's hard work and realizing the efforts we put in as a team really do have an effect.

**Most rewarding moments at work:** Opening the Surprise Aquatic Center and seeing the number of people it affected; who had been waiting for it to open.

Seeing the thousands of kids involved in our youth leagues; families enjoying the simple things in life and realizing that, for the kids, the treat after the game is more important than whether they win or lose.

**Proudest moment in life:** The birth of my son.

**Philosophy of life:** Keep family as the priority.

**Work goal:** Enhance the fan experience at Spring Training; Improve and develop Surprise's special events.

**Relax by:** Exercise; playing with my son.

Melissa Miller admits that going from a corporate fitness career in Seattle to running youth recreation programs out of an aged, cramped building in Surprise's Original Townsite was a BIG change.

That's nothing compared to the changes she's experienced the past six years as a key player in the Community and Recreation Services Department. Back in June 2000, Director Mark Coronado and other city leaders were in the beginning stages of master-planning the Surprise Recreation Campus including the Aquatic Center, Library, Park, Stadium, sports fields and the department's new offices. "It was a great experience to be part of from the ground level," said Miller, "I learned a lot from Mark and the process."

Miller, who was drawn to sports at an early age, played volleyball, basketball and participated in track throughout high school. She landed a volleyball scholarship from Seattle Pacific University, where she played for two years. She earned a degree in exercise science wanting to pursue a career that would enhance peoples' lifestyles.

She obtained a job as a program director at a corporate health club in Seattle where she met her husband, Kevin. After two years of marriage, the couple wanted "something different" and began searching the internet for jobs in Arizona.

Turns out, it was a good move. Since joining the department, Miller has done it all, from overseeing youth sports to planning special events. "I've grown a lot professionally and personally," said Miller, an admittedly private person who would rather avoid the limelight. Her focus now is community promotions, which appeals to the business side of her. And, back to her goal of enhancing lifestyles, Miller wants to improve and add special events to facilitate families enjoying the simple pleasures of life – together.



# It's the Valley's *hottest* facility . . .



**"Best Place to See a Spring Training Game"** Phoenix New Times "Best of Phoenix" 2004

**"Best Sports Facility"** Phoenix New Times "Best of Phoenix" 2005

**Surprise Stadium**, opened for Spring Training 2003, is a 10,500-seat multi-use facility offering up-close-and-personal views of the major league stars from its double-decker stands and plush, family-friendly outfield lawns.

## Get your tickets

**In person:** Surprise Stadium Box Office, 15960 N. Bullard Ave.

**Hours:** 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Box office will remain open for 30 minutes following each Spring Training game.

### ***Ticketmaster\****

**In person:** Ticketmaster outlets at Robinson-May, Tower Records, Fry's Marketplace and Wherehouse Records

**On-line:** [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

**By phone:** 480.784.4444

\*A service charge will be applied to each ticket purchased through Ticketmaster

**Individual tickets** range from \$17 for the upper or lower dugout, to \$6 for a seat on the grassy berm. Group packages are available for groups of 25 or more. Call 623.266.4540

### **Season tickets**

Season ticket packages include complimentary reserved VIP parking and team Meet and Greet.

\$77 to \$119 for 7-pack of Kansas City Royals or Texas Rangers games

\$154 to \$238 for 14 Texas Rangers games

\$165 to \$255 for 15 Kansas City Royals games

\$319 to \$493 for the 29-game Surprise Stadium series

### **Special Promotions**

**Dollar Days:** March 4 and 5 - Enjoy \$1 hot dogs, sodas and peanuts

**Hat Giveaways:** March 10 – Kansas City Royals (limited quantity)

March 21 – Texas Rangers (limited quantity)

**T-shirt Giveaways:** March 17 – Kansas City Royals


March 23 – Texas Rangers

**Fireworks:** March 24 – Sponsored by Sanderson Ford-Lincoln Mercury and Sun Health

**SEE THE SPRING TRAINING 2005 SCHEDULE AT SURPRISEAZ**



# ... with the warmest welcome



**Brenda DeShazo's tip for getting autographs:** Arrive about an hour before the game and catch the players at the practice fields; they're usually in a good mood then. It's harder to catch them after the game – especially if their team lost – and, after the game, they're off work. They want to go home.

You can't help but like Brenda DeShazo. With a winning smile, sparkling blue eyes and a sunny disposition, she brings a personal touch to professional baseball in Surprise.

As one of the hundreds of yellow-shirted, straw hat-clad volunteers, she welcomes fans to Spring Training like guests to her own home. Every March for the past three years, the Surprise Sundancer has readied the stadium, carefully wiping down the numbered green chairs, before graciously guiding guests to their seats.

A long-time baseball fan, she declines to divulge her favorite team (I try not to be partial and to keep my opinions to myself), but unabashedly brags about the beauty of Surprise Stadium. "We have the most beautiful ballpark," she said, issuing her own personal invitation to baseball lovers everywhere: "We encourage you to come

see our games...we love the fans to come out and chat with us and enjoy our beautiful park as much as we do."

For DeShazo, a native Arizonan who met her husband while attending Phoenix Union High School, it IS personal. Elvis "Al" DeShazo was Surprise's assistant city manager and she was at the dinner table when then-City Manager Bill Pupo and the City Council first discussed the possibility of Spring Training and the Surprise Recreation Campus. "It's more successful than we ever imagined. What a wonderful idea it turned out to be," she said. Sadly, Al DeShazo didn't live to see it. His funeral service was held in left field, a month prior the first Spring Training season.

And, Brenda DeShazo, who had some extra time on her hands and always thought it would be fun to work at the games, filled out an application at the encouragement of Mayor Joan Shafer. "They put me to work the next day," said DeShazo.

Now entering her fourth Spring Training season, she's cutting back to five days a week – unless they really need her. For the past two years, she's worked every day of the 29-game season. She's filled most every position, but ushering is her favorite. "We have such wonderful fans. Some of the same people come back every year and you get to know them," she said. And, ushering affords opportunities to sneak a peek at the game.

**W**"The Sundancers have become our ambassadors of goodwill and quality customer service. We are fortunate to have so many volunteers who share a passion for coming to the ballpark and greeting our fans everyday!"

**Mark Coronado,**  
Director of Community and  
Recreation Services



## NEW PIECE OF PUBLIC ART UNVEILED

### *The Learning Tree*

Front lawn of Northwest Regional Library  
16089 N. Bullard Ave.

Artist Joe Tyler

Dedicated December 3, 2005



**A 27-foot welded tree shading a 10-foot by 14-foot book** and flower-adorned benches now graces the lawn in front of Surprise's Northwest Regional Library.

Created by artist Joe Tyler, an Arizona native and Surprise area resident since 1972, Surprise's newest piece of public art also **includes shaded benches and sculpted desert reptiles strategically placed around Surprise Lake, located behind the Library.** "I looked at it as two different projects," said Tyler, who has specialized in public art since 1995.

He was commissioned to create the pieces on the recommendation of the Surprise Arts and Cultural Advisory Board, with the approval of the Surprise City Council. Total cost of the projects was \$93,000.

Directed by the Arts Board to craft **a piece promoting the library, reading and education in general**, Tyler opted for a large-scale design that could be viewed easily from the street and nearby Surprise Stadium. "I also wanted it to be functional," Tyler said. The tree

provides a shaded seating area, while lighting makes it usable and visible at night.

The added beauty is that the artwork is practically maintenance free and highly durable. Good thing, since the "critters" by the lake naturally entice children to sit, stand and pour sand in and over them.

**Tyler's work is influenced by his education and love of the desert environment.** He earned a bachelor's degree in horticulture and a master's degree in environmental horticulture at Arizona State University in 1972 and 1974. In addition to Surprise, his works can be found in Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa, Chandler, Glendale, Peoria, Yuma, Tucson, Oro Valley, Santa Fe, Los Angeles and as far away as Japan.

Surprise's first piece of public art, dedicated in December 2002, is the U.S. Army-Air Corps Memorial located just south of the Library. The large, stone monument stands as a reminder that the land was used as an auxiliary training field for Luke Air Force Base during World War II.

## GROWTH: DYSART BUILDS FOUR SCHOOLS IN SURPRISE

The Dysart Unified School District, the fastest-growing school district in the state according to a recent analysis, plans to open three elementary schools and a second high school in Surprise for the 2006-07 school year; bringing to 13 the number of new schools built by the district since 2000.

The plan to open four new schools next year will come in two phases: Elementary School 14 at Greer Ranch and Elementary School 15 at Surprise Farms, along with the district's third high school, Valley Vista, will open in Fall 2006; Elementary School 16 at the Orchards is expected to open in January 2007.

"The Orchards site will begin construction soon and the district hopes to complete the campus by this time next year," said Scott Thompson, the district's executive director of Business Services. "The students will attend school in the second academic wing of Valley Vista High School until their school is complete." The Orchards site is located on Parkview Place, north of Greenway Road in Surprise. That same parcel currently has a new district administrative center and Valley Vista High School under construction.

A recent analysis by the District shows that Dysart is the fastest-growing school system in the state of Arizona. From 1996 to present, the district has seen a 306 percent increase in students, from 3,993 to more than 16,200. In the last five years alone, Dysart has grown by 11,000 students. By 2010, the district is expected to have well over 30,000 students, mirroring the growth of Surprise and El Mirage.

**Info:** 623.876.7169 or [www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org)





# BULK TRASH

Surprise provides a **limited amount** of free bulk trash service to its sanitation customers each fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). Bulk trash consists of household, furniture and other non-hazardous items which cannot be placed into the trash container. No dirt, rocks, concrete, concrete blocks, bricks, roofing or construction materials, auto parts, batteries or hazardous materials will be collected.

Bulk trash collections are scheduled quarterly in every area serviced by Surprise's Sanitation Division, however **customers must call 623.583.0947 to schedule a pickup when trucks are in their area.**

The city will haul 3 cubic yards **per year** free of charge, with excess or additional pickups billed at the rate of \$8 per cubic yard. One cubic yard is approximately the size of a full-size washer or dryer.

## UPCOMING BULK TRASH COLLECTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

**JAN. 30 – FEB. 10** Ashton Ranch, Countryside, Greenway Parc, Greer Ranch, Legacy Park, Marley Park, Mountain Gate, Mountain Vista Ranch, Rancho Gabriela and TASH.

**FEB. 13 – 24** Bell Pointe, Bell West Ranch, Sierra Montana and Surprise Farms.

**FEB. 27 – MARCH 10** 163rd Avenue Area, 199/219/239th Avenue Areas, Desert Oasis and Section 10.

**MARCH 13 – 24** Canyon Ridge, Coyote Lakes, Fox Hill Run, Litchfield Manor, Original Townsite, Roseview and West Point Towne Center.

**MARCH 27 – APRIL 7** Cotton Gin, The Orchards, Royal Ranch, Sierra Verde, Stonebrook, Summerfield, Sun Village and Veramonte.

## HOLIDAY REFUSE COLLECTION SCHEDULE 2006

623.583.0947 / [www.surpriseaz.com](http://www.surpriseaz.com)

### **Monday/Thursday Regular Collection**

#### **Presidents Day, Monday, February 20**

Tuesday, February 21  
Thursday, February 23

#### **Memorial Day, Monday, May 29**

Tuesday, May 30  
Thursday, June 1

#### **Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4**

Monday, July 3  
Thursday, July 6

#### **Labor Day, Monday, September 4**

Tuesday, September 5  
Thursday, September 7

#### **Columbus Day, Monday, October 9**

Tuesday, October 10  
Thursday, October 12

#### **Veterans Day, Friday, November 10**

Monday, November 6  
Thursday, November 9

#### **Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23 & Friday, November 24**

Monday, November 20  
There will be no recycling collection this week

#### **Christmas, Monday, December 25**

Tuesday, December 26  
Thursday, December 28

### **Tuesday/Friday Regular Collection**

#### **Presidents Day, Monday, February 20**

Wednesday, February 22  
Friday, February 24

#### **Memorial Day, Monday, May 30**

Wednesday, May 31  
Friday, June 2

#### **Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4**

Wednesday, July 5  
Friday, July 7

#### **Labor Day, Monday, September 4**

Wednesday, September 6  
Friday, September 8

#### **Columbus Day, Monday, October 9**

Wednesday, October 11  
Friday, October 13

#### **Veterans Day, Friday, November 10**

Tuesday, November 7  
Wednesday, November 8

#### **Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23 & Friday, November 24**

Tuesday, November 21  
There will be no recycling collection this week

#### **Christmas, Monday, December 25**

Wednesday, December 27  
Friday, December 29



# City NOTEBOOK

## **PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Surprise officials broke ground Dec. 17 on a 93,000-square-foot public safety building to house the Police Department, Municipal Court, Fire Department administration and Surprise11 television studio.

The \$32.5 million complex, located on Statler Drive west of Litchfield Road in the Surprise Civic Center, has been a long time in the planning stages, but Construction Project Manager Regis Reed said the result is a "very well-designed building that will serve Surprise's needs far in to the future." The building is expected to be occupied by late 2007.



## **RECREATION READIES ONLINE REGISTRATION**

Surprise residents will soon be able to register for Community and Recreation Services (CRS) sports teams, swim lessons, special interest classes and other programs online but, in the meantime, there's paperwork to fill out.

**In order to use the online registration**, customers must stop by the CRS office at 15930 N. Bullard Ave. and provide the following information to establish an account: Name and birthdate of family members on the account, address, phone number and e-mail. Surprise residents must also show proof of residency in order to qualify for resident status. Customers will then receive a client identification number and PIN number to use online. **Info:** 623.266.4500

## **MUSEUM OFFERS ART CLASSES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

Classes for adults and children are available through May at the West Valley Art Museum, located just north of Bell Road at 114th Avenue. Afternoon and evening classes for adults include figure drawing, watercolors, oil painting and pastels. Saturday children's classes include clay, easel painting, masks, cartooning and dragon drawing. **Info:** Mike Bailey or Sylvia Assyia at 623.972.0635

## **POLICE OFFICERS PROMOTED TO SERGEANT**

Police officers Neil Gang, Jeremy Robertson and Randy Rody were recently promoted to sergeant. They will supervise squads within the Field Operations Division.

Sgt. Gang has more than 17 years of law enforcement experience and has served as a Field Training Officer, School Resource Officer, K-9 handler and trainer. Sgt. Robertson spent five of his eight years with the Surprise Police Department as a Motor Officer. Sgt. Rody has seven years of law enforcement experience. He was a member of the Special Assignment Unit and, for the last three years, a detective in the Criminal Investigations Division.

## **SURPRISE GAINS SIX FIREFIGHTERS**

Six firefighter recruits graduated from the Phoenix Regional Fire Training Facility on Dec. 16, bringing the Department's operational staff to 62 members.

Fifteen firefighters were approved in the 2005-06 budget, but due to the large number of recruits being trained Valley-wide, the department is only allowed to send five recruits through each training class.







### SENIOR CENTER COLLECTS DONATIONS FOR SOLDIERS

The Surprise Senior Center continues to be a designated drop-off site for donations to Packages from Home, a non-profit organization dedicated to sending care packages to American soldiers. The Surprise Senior Center is located at 15832 N. Hollyhock St. in the Original Townsite. For more information on items to donate, call 602.412.3462 or visit the website at [www.packagesfromhome.org](http://www.packagesfromhome.org)

### CITY SOLICITS VOLUNTEER HELP

Surprise Dial-A-Ride is recruiting volunteers to assist with dispatching during weekday afternoons. Training is provided, but some computer skills are desirable and bilingual in Spanish is helpful. Dial-A-Ride is a City service providing low-cost weekday transportation to Surprise residents by appointment.

Volunteer opportunities are available in several departments of the City such as the Senior Center, Human Services, Fire, Police Departments or Community and Recreation Services. **Info:** 623.583.0653

### MEDIATION IS A FREE PROBLEM-SOLVER

If you're stressed about a dispute with a neighbor, employer, employee, HOA manager or board, business owner or friend, then Surprise's Mediation program may be the solution – and it's available free of charge. Mediation is a process whereby the parties involved in a dispute voluntarily try to resolve the issues with the aid of an impartial third party, a mediator.

**Info:** 623.815.5490 or [surpriseaz.com](http://surpriseaz.com). Look under City Departments, Community Initiatives, Mediation Program.

### APPLY NOW FOR POPULAR HOA ACADEMY

The third Surprise Homeowners (HOA) Academy which starts Feb. 7 is already filled, but applications for the Fall 2006 Academy are now available. Cost is \$20. The six-session Academy, scheduled to begin in mid-September, includes information on the role of HOAs, fundamentals of governing and managing HOAs, selecting vendors, budgeting, CC&R enforcement, code compliance and legal aspects of HOAs. **Info:** Ruby Sitea, 623.815.5490

### COLOMBO IS FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Nick Colombo, a captain and member of the Surprise Fire Department since 1994, was named Firefighter of the Year at the department's first awards ceremony held in December. Only the second recipient of the honor, he was chosen by a vote of his peers.

Colombo leads the design team for fire stations and chairs a committee of fire department employees who specify the apparatus the City needs to purchase. "Nick has been described as the consummate detail man, making sure the department gets what it needs to complete its mission," said Chief Michael White. "Nick has done all of the above while maintaining his primary responsibility as an Engine Company Captain assigned to E303 B shift." **Colombo's Engine Company was also named Company of the Year.** It includes Engineer George Reitz, Fire Fighter/Paramedic Ryan Ellis and Fire Fighter/Paramedic Lee Park.

In other awards, Ron Steinhilber received the meritorious service award for performing CPR on a man who collapsed at a gym. Steinhilber and a Phoenix Police Officer were both off-duty and are credited with saving the man's life.

Randy Frassetto received The Perry Award for a firefighter who best epitomizes the Department's mission, vision, values and customer service standards. The award is presented in memory of Surprise firefighter Randy Perry, who died of cancer in 2002.



Chief Michael White (left)  
and Nick Colombo

# Surprise Senior Center

623.583.0653 | 15832 N. Hollyhock St. | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. weekdays | For ages 60 and better | \$10 annual membership

## EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Senior adults interested in brushing up on their skills before re-entering the work force can earn while they learn at the City of Surprise.

The Senior Center is a designated training site for the Senior Community Service Employment Program under Title V of the Older Americans Act. The program is designed to assist income-eligible senior adults to transition into competitive employment once they have completed their paid training program. A variety of positions are available.

Title V participants must be at least 55-years-old, an Arizona resident and qualify as low income.

**Info:** 623.583.0653.



*Title V worker Sophie Wu answers phones and greets visitors at the Surprise Senior Center.*

### FITNESS CENTER

8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.  
weekdays.

Annual membership fee \$25,  
winter membership \$15.

### HAVE A HOT LUNCH!

Available weekdays  
for a \$2.50 contribution  
Call for reservations  
24 hours in advance.

## UPCOMING CLASSES & PROGRAMS

### Tai Chi for Arthritis (or Anyone)

11 a.m., Fridays, for six weeks.

Gentle movements allow a complete range of motion without causing aggravation to the joints. \$2 per week. Call for start dates.

### Country Line Dancing

9:30 a.m., Tuesdays.

Kick up your boots each week for only \$3.

### Computer Classes

Call for class dates and times.

Basic I & II, Internet, E-Mail, Microsoft Word, File Management and New! Digital Photos. Class fee is \$10.

### AARP Driver's Training

\$10 covers two 4-hour sessions.

To register 623.546.7143.

### Texas Hold 'Em Poker

1 p.m., Thursdays.

If you've watched on TV and feel ready to "go all in," drop by for a friendly, fun game.

## TRIPS

### Casino Arizona Feb. 21

Cost is \$3; Leave from the Senior Center at 8:30 a.m

### Man of La Mancha March 1

\$40 includes transportation, luncheon and show at the new Arizona Broadway Theatre.

### Funny Girl April 5

\$42 includes transportation, lunch and matinee show at Broadway Palms Theatre.





**Fire Station 301** will be opening soon. The four-bay station, located behind City Hall at 15760 N. Village Drive, is the largest of the City's four stations and will serve as a replacement for Surprise's original fire station on Hollyhock Street.

## NOW OPEN

**Offices/medical/dental:** **West Valley Orthodontics**, 15276 W. Brookside Lane; **Dental Properties**, 15033 W. Bell Road; **Mountain View Dentistry**, 18731 N. Reems Road; **Premier Physicians**, 15021 W. Bell Road; **Surprise Chiropractic**, 13794 W. Waddell Road; **Physiotherapy Specialists**, 16920 W. Bell Road; **Reel Dental**, 12301 W. Bell Road; **Internal Medicine / Essensa Medispa**, 15021 W. Bell Road.

**Offices/other:** **Pacific Waters Investments**, 15288 W. Brookside Lane; **Insurance Beacon.com**, 15270 W. Brookside Lane; **Diamond/GMAC**, 14961 W. Bell Road; **State Farm Insurance**, 13794 W. Waddell Road; **Windermere**, 14245 W. Grand Ave; **Empire Title Agency**, 15270 W. Brookside Lane; **A Car & Truck Rental of Surprise**, 17150 N. 134th Drive.

**Retail:** **Checker Auto Parts**, 16824 W. Bell Road and 13710 W. Waddell Road; **Kreative Koatings & Designs**, 12909 W. Grand Ave; **Classy Photo**, 14545 W. Grand Ave; **Safeway & Gas Station**, 17049 W. Bell Road; **Walgreens**, 15514 W. Waddell; **Chancellor Cleaners**, 14045 W. Grand Ave; **Alltel Sales Center**, 14071 W. Bell Road; **ReNet Systems Technology**, 16846 W. Bell Road; **The UPS Store**, 13954 W. Waddell Road; **Supercuts**, 13954 W. Waddell Road; **Model Cleaners**, 13856 W. Waddell Road; **Postnet**, 14537 N. Grand Ave; **Creative Iron Patio**, 24612 W. Grand Ave; **Club Tan**, 17119 N. Litchfield Road.

**Restaurant/bar:** **Coyote Alley**, 16846 W. Bell Road; **Caramba's Fresh Mexican Food**, 17239 N. Litchfield Road; **Chen Wok Gourmet Oriental**, 13856 W. Waddell Road.

**Adult Care:** **Antigua Care Home**, 11433 W. Phillip Jacob Drive; **Mulberry Place Adult Care Home**, 15533 N. 156th Drive.

## COMING SOON

**Offices:** **Desert Valley Pediatrics**, 15264 W. Brookside Lane; **Smiles of Beauty**, 15033 W. Bell Road; **Mountain Terrace Dentistry**, 16936 W. Bell Road; **Spencer Bailey DDS**, 14997 W. Bell Road; **Gentle Dental**, 15601 W. Bell Road; **Sun Health Urgent Care**, 15468 N. Civic Center Drive; **Performance Physical Therapy**, 13933 W. Grand Ave; **Healthsound**, 13951 W. Grand Ave; **Coldwell Banker**, 15128 W. Bell Road; **Landamerica Commonwealth**, 14961 W. Bell Road; **Jackson Hewitt**, 13954 W. Waddell Road.

**Retail/auto:** **MCS Auto Repair and Accessories**, 13421 and 13427 Westgate; **Econo Lube & Tune**, 15494 W. Bell Road; **Brakes Plus**, 16839 N. Reems Road; **Desert Motorsports**, 15380 W. Bell Road; **Jiffy Lube**, 16875 N. Reems Road.

**Retail/other:** **Henry's Market**, 15569 W. Bell Road; **Sprouts** (grocery), 13759 W. Bell Road; **Surprise Village Self-Storage**, 17275 N. Litchfield Road; **US Bank**, 13753 W. Bell Road; **Cartridge World**, 17173 N. Litchfield Road; **Arizona Mail Center**, 13794 W. Waddell Road; **Mountainside Fitness Center**, 15455 W. Bell Road; **Credit Union West**, 16765 N. Litchfield Road; **LA Nails**, 13794 W. Waddell.

**Restaurants:** **Mike's Grill**, 17191 N. Litchfield Road; **Sonic**, 13926 W. Waddell Road; **Native New Yorker**, 14051 W. Grand Ave; **Chili's Bar & Grill**, 13765 W. Bell Road; **Babbo's Italian Eatery**, 15609 W. Bell Road; **Subway**, 13954 W. Waddell Road.

**Schools/churches:** **Greer Ranch Elementary**, 11405 N. Greer Ranch Parkway; **Tutor Time**, 15438 W. Bell Road; **Dysart Unified School District Administrative Offices**, 15848 N. Parkview Place; **Dysart High School No. 3**, 15550 N. Parkview Place; **(Dysart) Elementary School No. 15 at Surprise Farms**, 18063 W. Surprise Loop South; **Vineyard Church**, 14795 W. Mountain View Blvd; **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**, 14878 N. Verde Vista Drive.

**Misc:** **Prestige Dance Academy**, 16761 N. West Point Parkway; **Heard Museum West**, 14315 W. Paradise Lane; **Residence at Park Place (condominiums)**, 14575 W. Mountain View Blvd; **Retreat at Westpoint (apartments)**, 16671 N. Litchfield Road.

# JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST GRAFFITI

GRAFFITI!! #?!@%

If there's writing on the wall, Surprise police and code enforcement officers want to know about it. In an attempt to keep Surprise graffiti-free, they are asking residents to report it - and cover it up - as soon as possible.

"Taggers like to show off their work to friends," said Jenifer O'Melia of Surprise's Code Enforcement office. "If their artwork is covered up quickly, they might try it one or two more times, but then they'll move on."

Property owners, as well as homeowner's associations, are responsible for cleaning up graffiti – even though they are the victims – but now the City can provide help. The Code Enforcement Division and the Police Department are partnering with a non-profit group, Together Against Graffiti (TAG), to provide computer-matched paint free of charge. TAG, started last year by El Mirage resident Linda Kleiner, has already recruited more than 200 Surprise residents to adopt walls and other areas of Surprise to help clean up graffiti quickly.

#### HERE'S HOW RESIDENTS CAN HELP:

- Report any graffiti you see to the graffiti hotline. Be prepared to give the address, or closest intersection, a description of the graffiti and when you first noticed it.
- Become a TAG volunteer. Info: 623.933.9391

GRAFFITI HOTLINE:

**623.594.5707**



*Beyond Expectations*

12425 W. Bell Road  
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